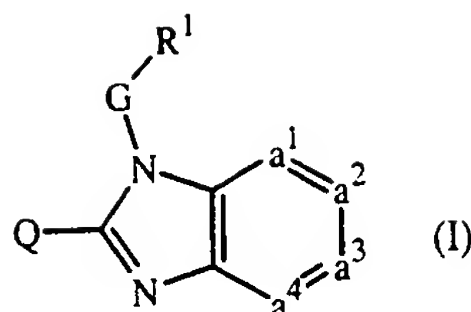


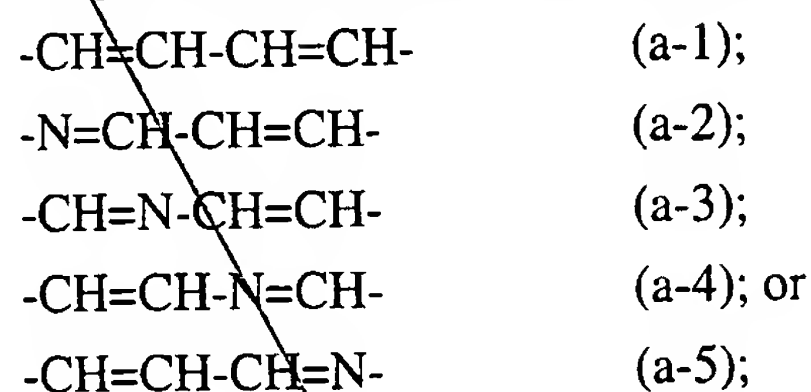
Claims

1. A compound of formula

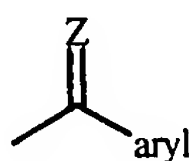


a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof wherein

$-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ represents a bivalent radical of formula

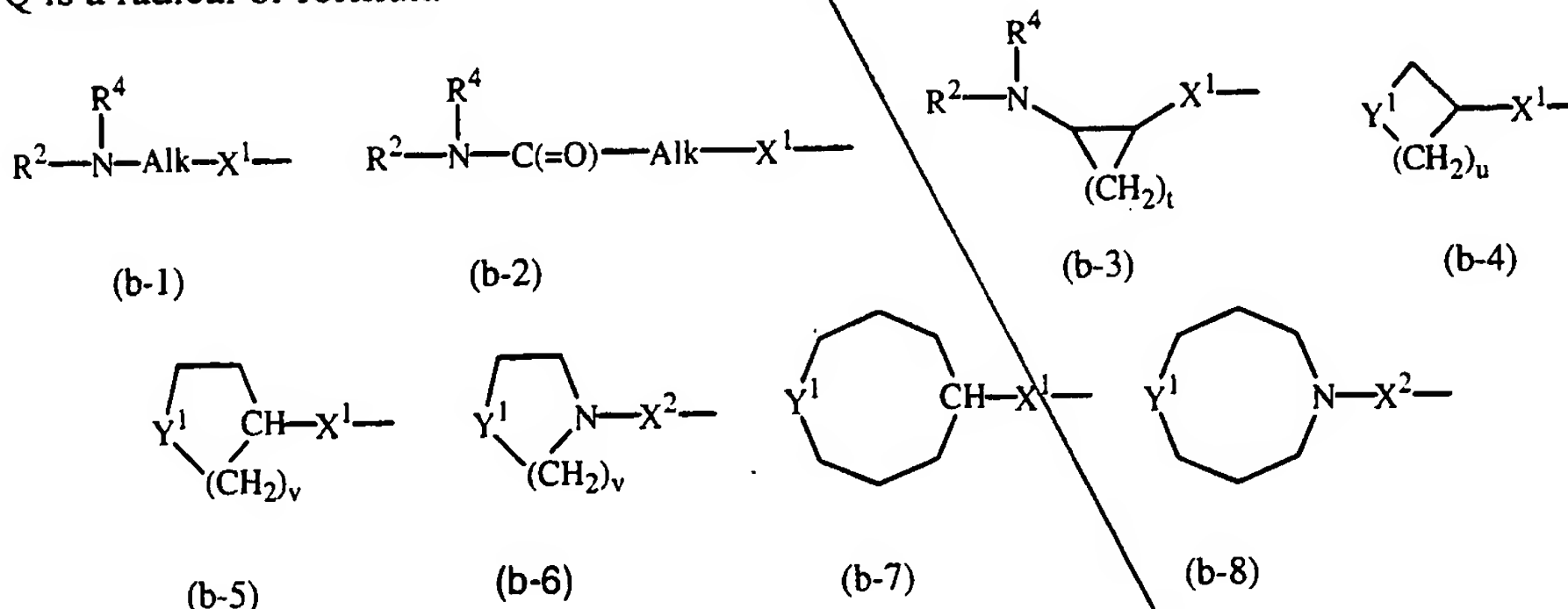


wherein each hydrogen atom in the radicals (a-1), (a-2), (a-3), (a-4) and (a-5) may optionally be replaced by halo, C_{1-6} alkyl, nitro, amino, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyloxy, polyhalo C_{1-6} alkyl, carboxyl, amino C_{1-6} alkyl, mono- or di(C_{1-4} alkyl)-amino C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, hydroxy C_{1-6} alkyl, or a radical of formula



wherein $=\text{Z}$ is $=\text{O}$, $=\text{CH}-\text{C}(=\text{O})-\text{NR}^{5a}\text{R}^{5b}$, $=\text{CH}_2$, $=\text{CH}-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$, $=\text{N}-\text{OH}$ or $=\text{N}-\text{O}-\text{C}_{1-6}\text{alkyl}$;

20 Q is a radical of formula



wherein Alk is C_{1-6} alkanediyl;

Y^1 is a bivalent radical of formula $-\text{NR}^2-$ or $-\text{CH}(\text{NR}^2\text{R}^4)-$;

X^1 is NR^4 , S, $\text{S}(=\text{O})$, $\text{S}(=\text{O})_2$, O, CH_2 , $\text{C}(=\text{O})$, $\text{C}(=\text{CH}_2)$, $\text{CH}(\text{OH})$, $\text{CH}(\text{CH}_3)$, $\text{CH}(\text{OCH}_3)$, $\text{CH}(\text{SCH}_3)$, $\text{CH}(\text{NR}^{5a}\text{R}^{5b})$, CH_2-NR^4 or NR^4-CH_2 ;

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X² is a direct bond, CH₂, C(=O), NR⁴, C₁₋₄alkyl-NR⁴, NR⁴-C₁₋₄alkyl;

t is 2, 3, 4 or 5;

u is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

v is 2 or 3; and

- 5 whereby each hydrogen atom in Alk and the carbocycles and the heterocycles defined in radicals (b-3), (b-4), (b-5), (b-6), (b-7) and (b-8) may optionally be replaced by R³; with the proviso that when R³ is hydroxy or C₁₋₆alkyloxy, then R³ can not replace a hydrogen atom in the α position relative to a nitrogen atom;

G is C₁₋₁₀alkanediyl substituted with one or more hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyloxy,

- 10 arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, arylC₁₋₆alkylthio, HO(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, C₁₋₆alkyloxy-(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n- or arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-;

R¹ is a monocyclic heterocycle or aryl; said heterocycle being selected from piperidiny, piperazinyl, pyridyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, furanyl, tetrahydrofuranyl, thienyl, pyrrolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, pyrazolyl, isoxazolyl,

- 15 oxadiazolyl; and each heterocycle may optionally be substituted with 1 or where possible more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, amino, cyano, carboxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, C₁₋₆alkylthio, C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, arylC₁₋₆alkyl, arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, mono-or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, mono-or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)aminoC₁₋₆alkyl, polyhaloC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonylamino, 20 C₁₋₆alkyl-SO₂-NR^{5c}-, aryl-SO₂-NR^{5c}-, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl, -C(=O)-NR^{5c}R^{5d}, HO(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, halo(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, C₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n- and mono-or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-; each n independently is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

R² is hydrogen, formyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl, Hetcarbonyl, pyrrolidinyl, piperidinyl,

- 25 homopiperidinyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl substituted with N(R⁶)₂, or C₁₋₁₀alkyl substituted with N(R⁶)₂ and optionally with a second, third or fourth substituent selected from amino, hydroxy, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, C₂₋₅alkanediyl, piperidinyl, mono-or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonylamino, aryl and aryloxy;

R³ is hydrogen, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, arylC₁₋₆alkyl or arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy;

- 30 R⁴ is hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl or arylC₁₋₆alkyl;

R^{5a}, R^{5b}, R^{5c} and R^{5d} each independently are hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyl; or

R^{5a} and R^{5b}, or R^{5c} and R^{5d} taken together form a bivalent radical of formula -(CH₂)_s- wherein s is 4 or 5;

R⁶ is hydrogen, C₁₋₄alkyl, formyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkylcarbonyl or

- 35 C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl;

contd.
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aryl is phenyl or phenyl substituted with 1 or more, such as 2, 3 or 4, substituents selected from halo, hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyl, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, polyhaloC₁₋₆alkyl, and C₁₋₆alkyloxy;

Het is pyridyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, pyridazinyl.

5

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ is a radical of formula (a-1) or (a-2).

10

3. A compound according to claim 1 or 2 wherein R¹ is phenyl optionally substituted with halo, C₁₋₆alkyl or C₁₋₄alkyloxy; or pyridyl optionally substituted with 1 or more substituents selected from arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy, C₁₋₆alkyloxyC₁₋₆alkyl, aryl, mono-or di(C₁₋₆alkyl)amino, C(=O)-NR^{5c}R^{5d}, halo or C₁₋₆alkyl.

15

4. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein G is C₁₋₄alkanediyl substituted with hydroxy, C₁₋₆alkyloxy, HO(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, C₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n- or arylC₁₋₆alkyloxy(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-.

20

5. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein Q is a radical of formula (b-5) wherein v is 2 and Y¹ is -NR²-.

6. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 wherein X¹ is NH or CH₂.

25

7. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein R² is hydrogen or C₁₋₁₀alkyl substituted with NHR⁶ wherein R⁶ is hydrogen or C₁₋₆alkyloxycarbonyl.

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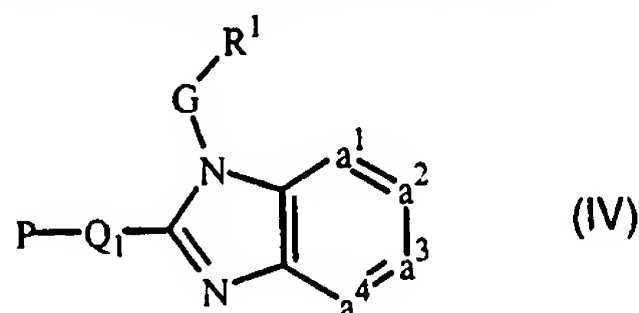
8. A compound according to claim 1 wherein the compound is [(A),(S)]-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)-ethoxymethyl]-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine; [(A),(S)]-N-[1-(2-aminopropyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine (compound 75); (±)-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-methoxyethoxy)(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine; N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-6-chloro-1-[(2-methoxyethoxy)(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-4-methyl-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine trihydrochloride trihydrate; [(A),(R)]-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; (±)-N-[1-(2-aminopropyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine; [(A),(S)]-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; (±)-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazol-

contd.
A¹

- 2-amine; [(A),(R)]-N-[1-(2-aminopropyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; (±)-N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)ethoxymethyl]-2-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; [(B),(S)] N-[1-(2-aminopropyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[ethoxy(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; (±)-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-3-[(2-methoxyethoxy)(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-7-methyl-3*H*-imidazo[4,5-*b*]pyridin-2-amine; (±)-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-ethoxyethoxy)(6-phenyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-N-[1-(2-aminoethyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(2-methoxyethoxy)(6-methyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)ethoxymethyl]-4-methyl-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine monohydrate; [(A),(R)]-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)ethoxymethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine; (±)-N-[1-(2-amino-3-methylbutyl)-4-piperidinyl]-1-[(6-bromo-2-pyridinyl)ethoxymethyl]-1*H*-benzimidazol-2-amine;
- a prodrug, *N*-oxide, addition salt, quaternary amine, metal complex or stereochemically isomeric form thereof.

9. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8 for use as a medicine.
10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and as active ingredient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 8.
11. A process of preparing a composition as claimed in claim 10, characterized in that, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier is intimately mixed with a therapeutically effective amount of a compound as described in any one of claims 1 to 8.

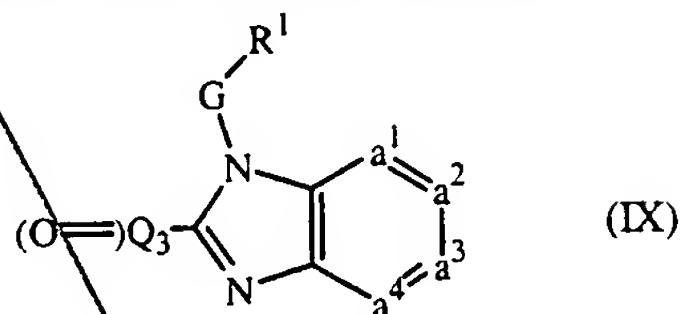
12. An intermediate of formula



with R^1 , G and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, P being a protective group, and Q_1 being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that it is devoided of the R^2 or R^6 substituent.

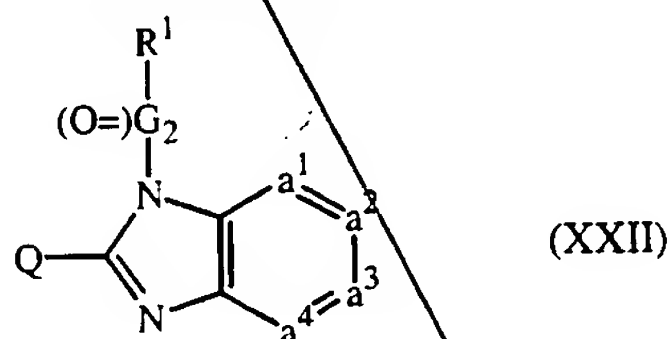
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a¹

13. An intermediate of formula



with R¹, G and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and (O=)Q₃ being a carbonyl derivative of Q, said Q being defined according to claim 1, provided that it is devoided of the -NR²R⁴ or -NR²- substituent.

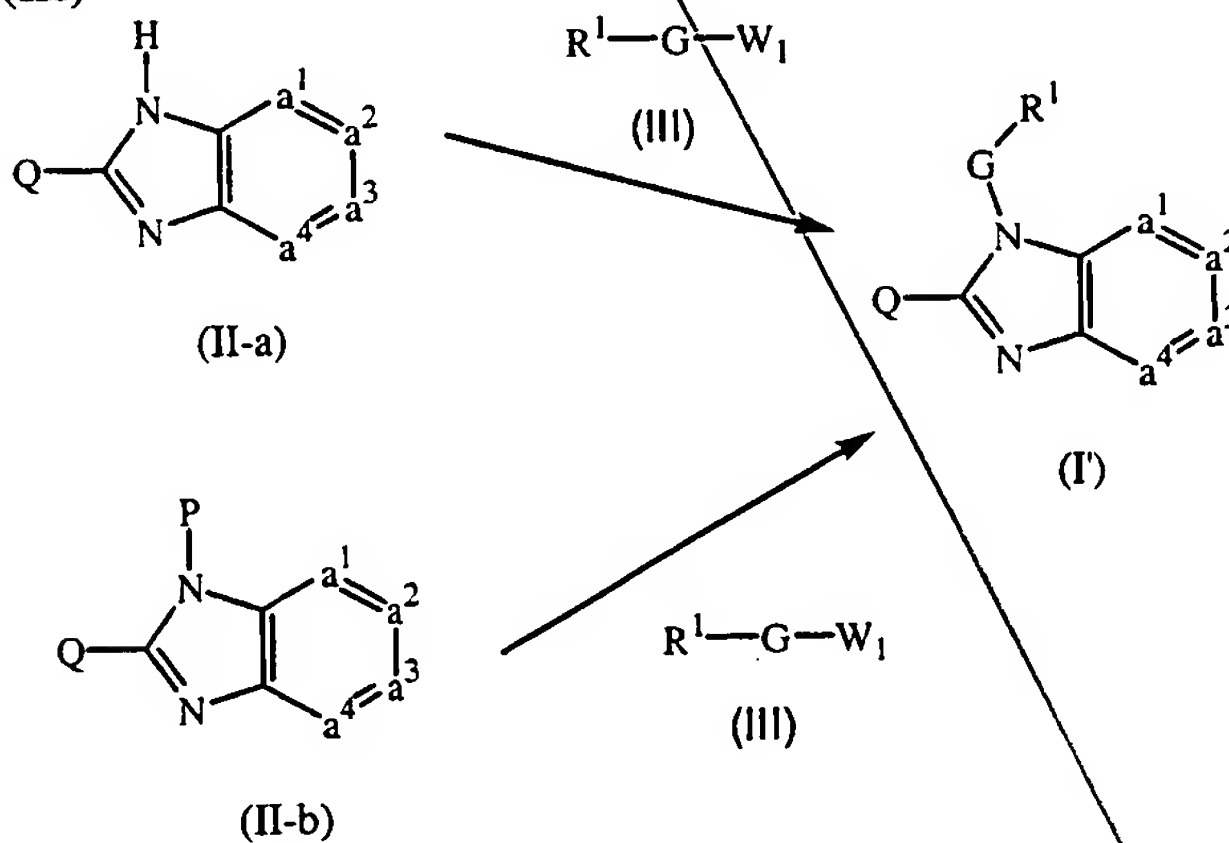
14. An intermediate of formula



with R¹, Q and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and (O=G₂) being a carbonyl derivative of G, said G being defined according to claim 1.

15. A process of preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, characterized by,

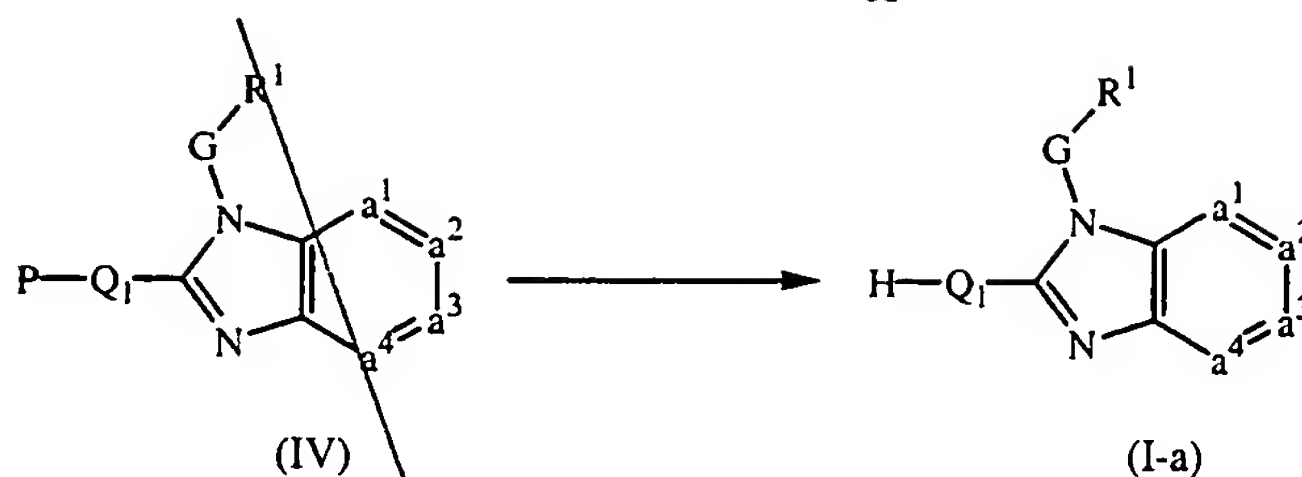
a) reacting an intermediate of formula (II-a) or (II-b) with an intermediate of formula (III)



with R¹, G, Q and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and W₁ being a suitable leaving group, in the presence of a suitable base and in a suitable reaction-inert solvent;

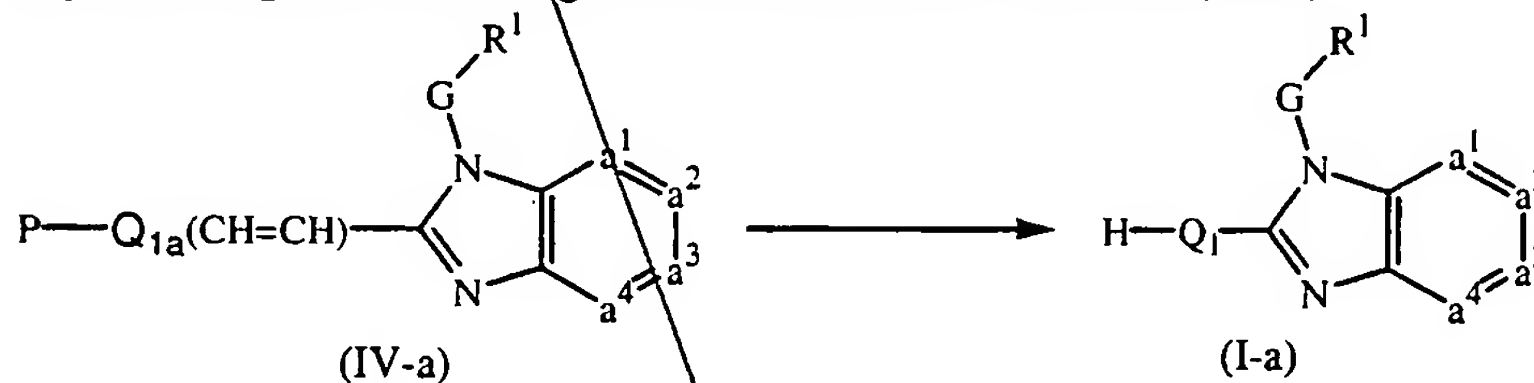
b) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (IV)

-65-



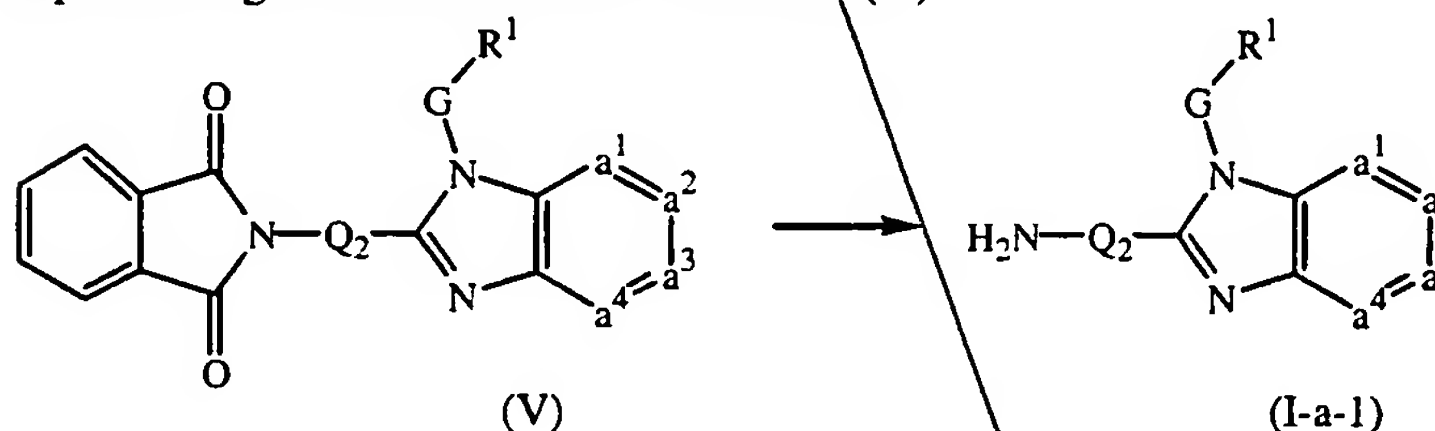
with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

5 c) deprotecting and reducing an intermediate of formula (IV-a)



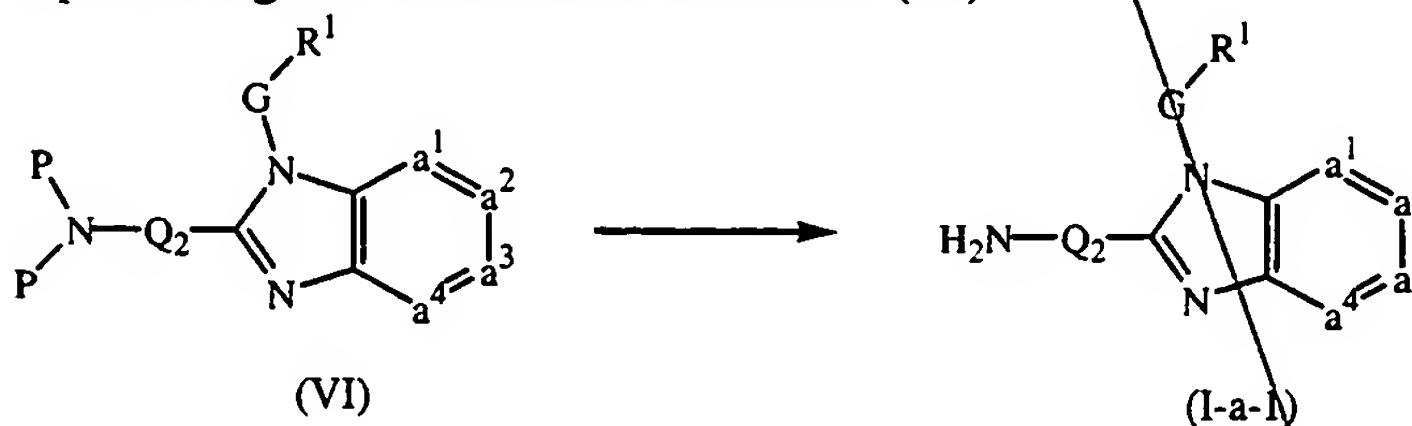
with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, H-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R^2 or at least one R^6 substituent is hydrogen, Q_{1a}(CH=CH) being defined as Q₁ provided that Q₁ comprises an unsaturated bond, and P being a protective group;

10 d) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (V)



with R^1 , G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-Q₂ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R^6 substituents are hydrogen or R^2 and R^4 are both hydrogen;

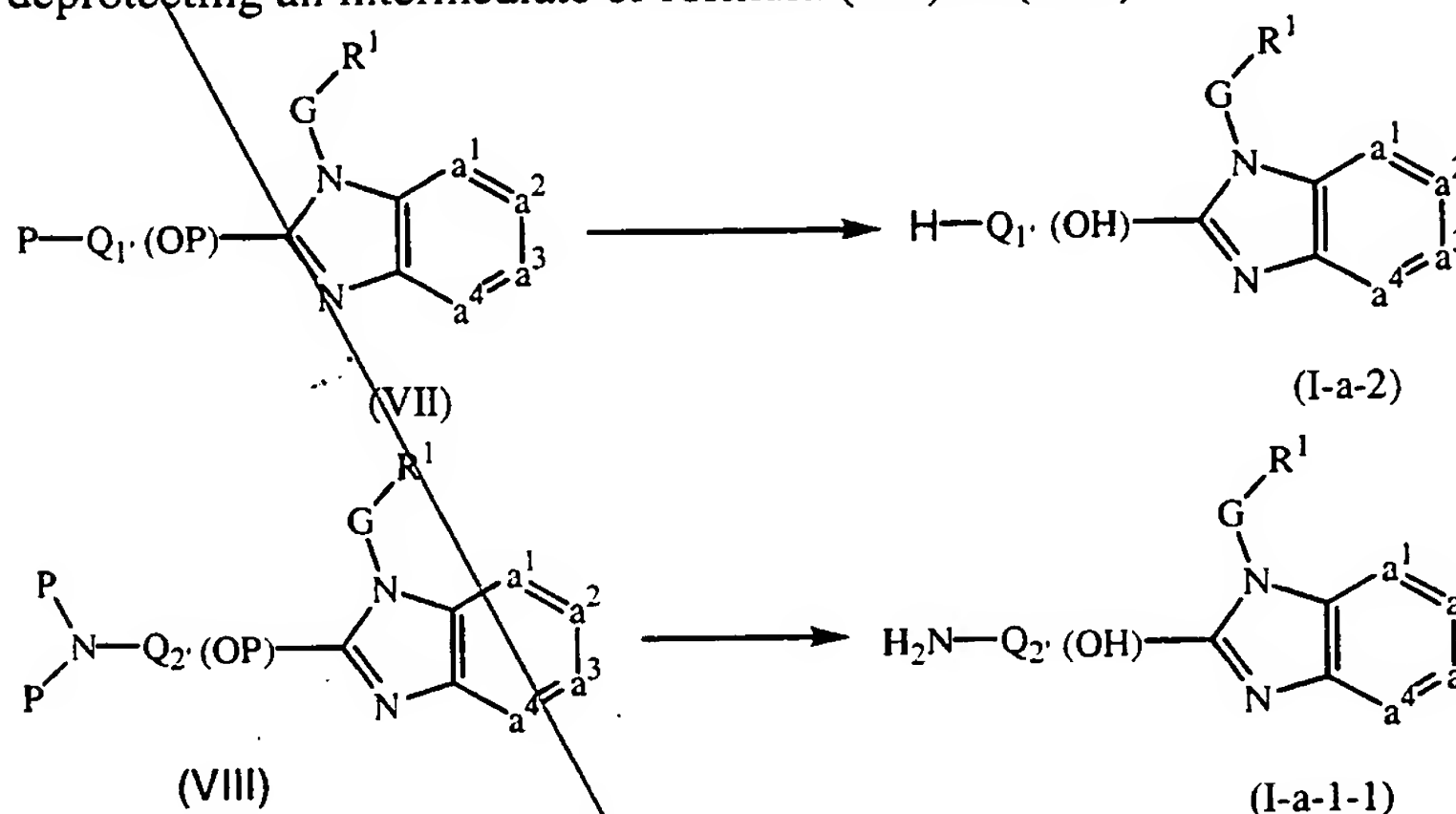
15 e) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VI)



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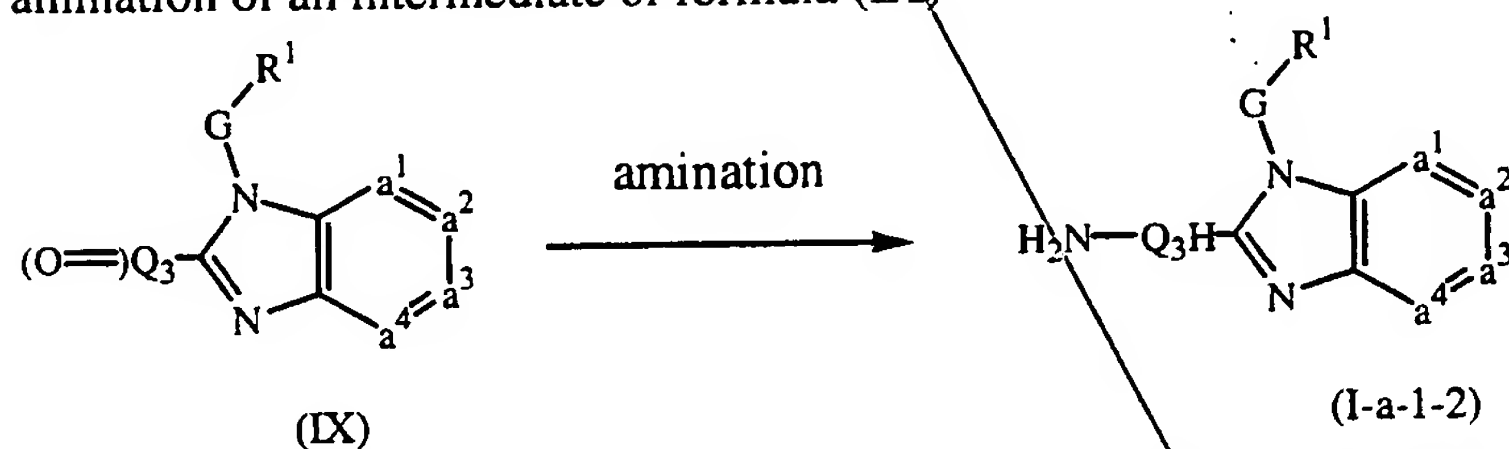
- with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-Q₂ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R⁶ substituents are hydrogen or R² and R⁴ are both hydrogen, and P being a protective group;

- 5 f) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (VII) or (VIII)



- 10 with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, H-Q₁(OH) being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² or at least one R⁶ substituent is hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, H₂N-Q₂(OH) being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R⁶ substituents are hydrogen or R² and R⁴ are both hydrogen and provided that Q comprises a hydroxy moiety, and P being a protective group;

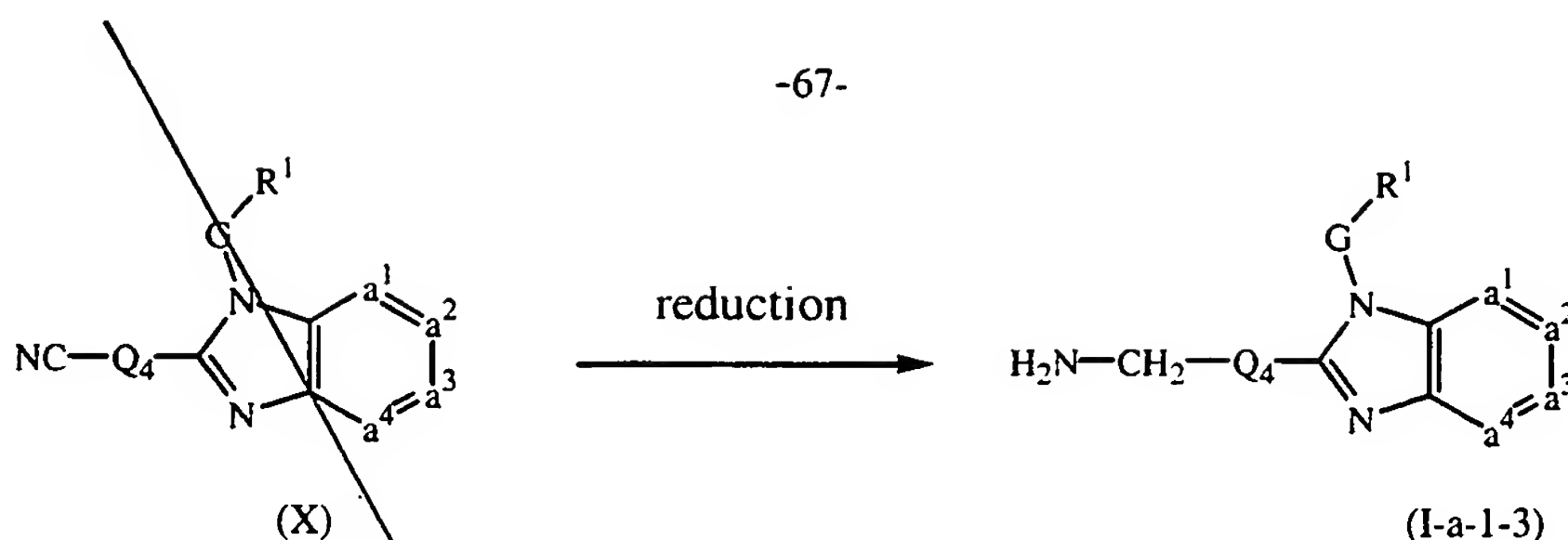
- g) amination of an intermediate of formula (IX)



- 15 with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-Q₃H being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that both R⁶ substituents are hydrogen or R² and R⁴ are both hydrogen, and the carbon adjacent to the nitrogen carrying the R⁶, or R² and R⁴ substituents contains at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

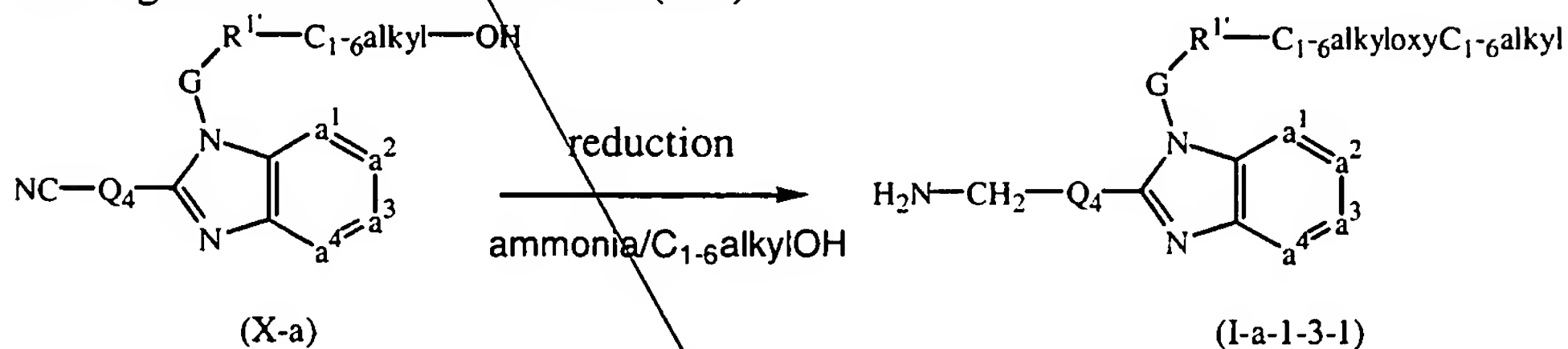
- 20 h) reducing an intermediate of formula (X)

-67-

contd.
a¹

with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-CH₂-Q₄ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a -CH₂-NH₂ moiety, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

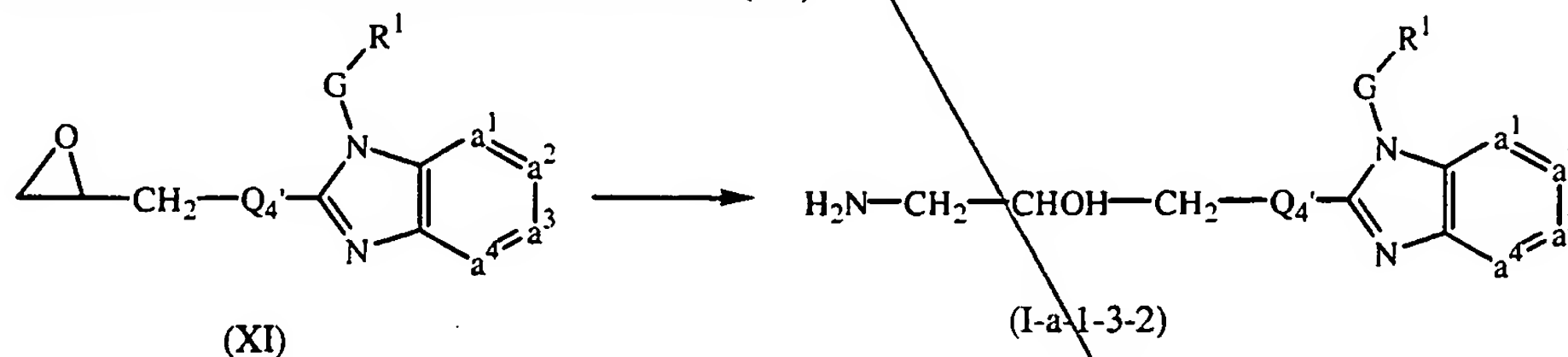
- 5 i) reducing an intermediate of formula (X-a)



with G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, H₂N-CH₂-Q₄ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a -CH₂-NH₂ moiety, and R¹ being defined as R¹ according to claim 1 provided that it comprises at least one substituent, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent and suitable solvent;

10

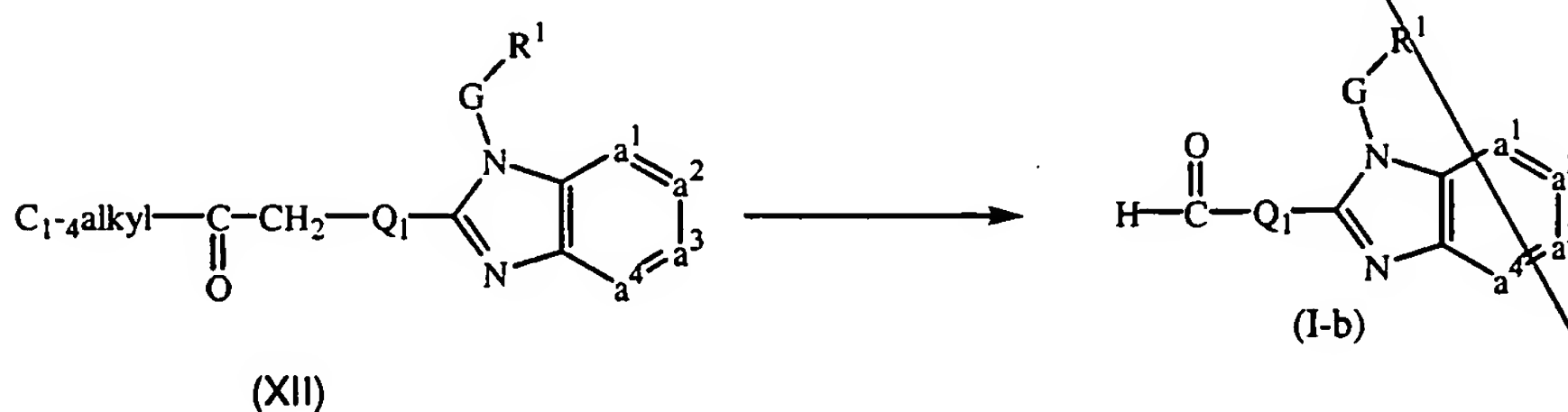
- j) amination of an intermediate of formula (XI)



with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H₂N-CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-Q₄ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that Q comprises a CH₂-CHOH-CH₂-NH₂ moiety, in the presence of a suitable amination reagent;

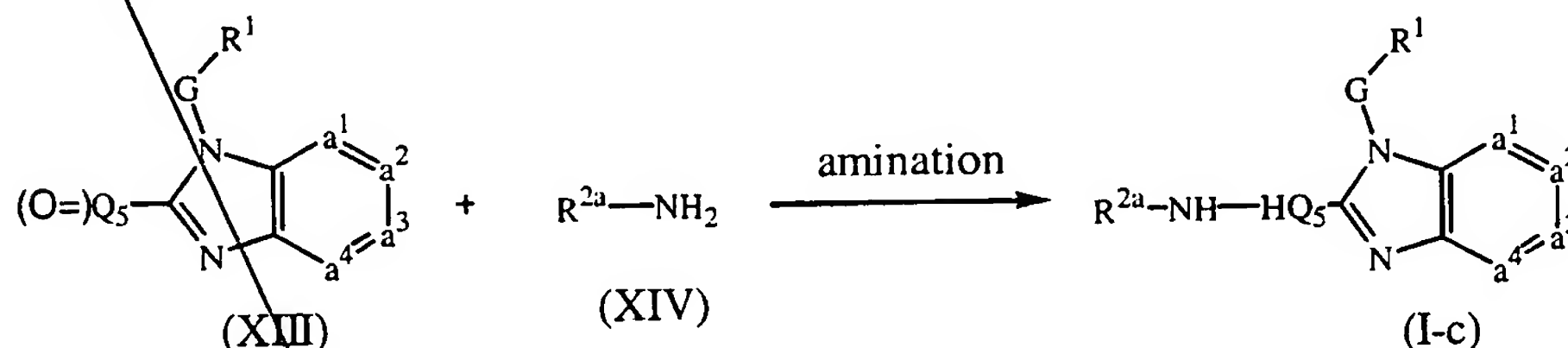
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- k) reacting an intermediate of formula (XII) with formic acid, formamide and ammonia



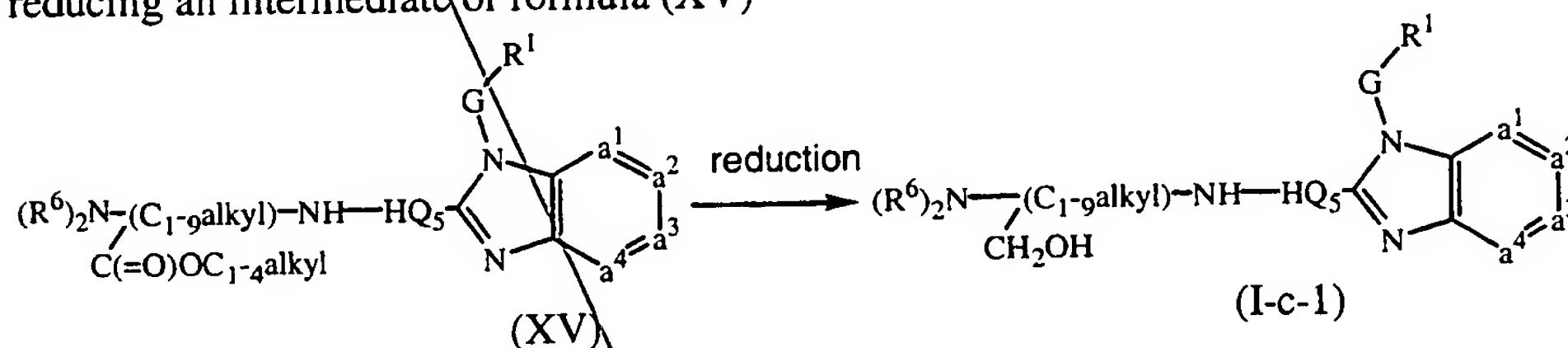
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a¹

- l) with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H-C(=O)-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² or at least one R⁶ substituent is formyl;



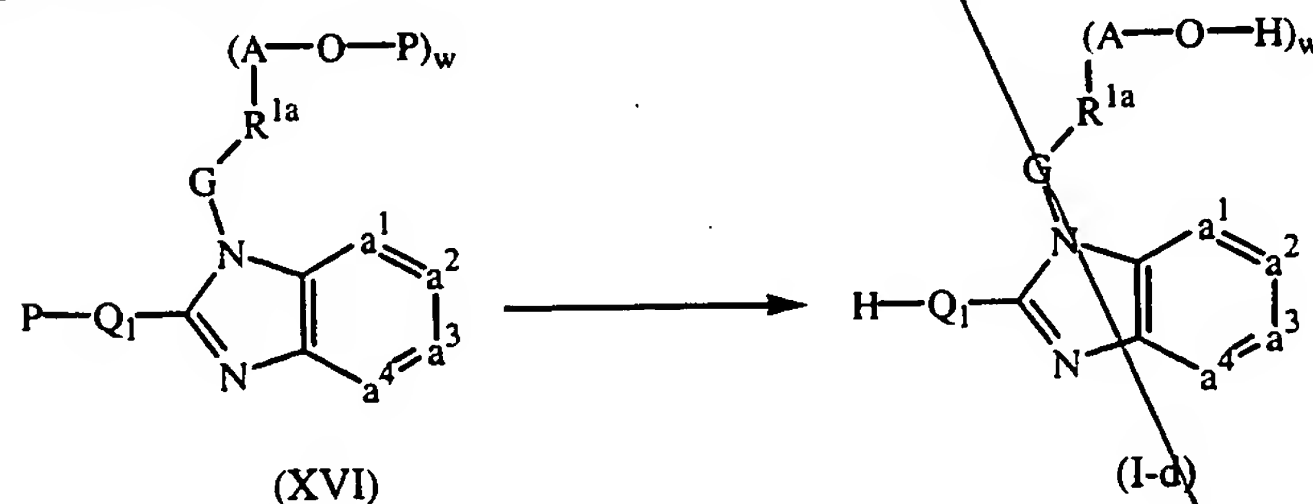
with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and R^{2a}-NH-HQ₅ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² is other than hydrogen and is represented by R^{2a}, R⁴ is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R² and R⁴ substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent;

- m) reducing an intermediate of formula (XV)

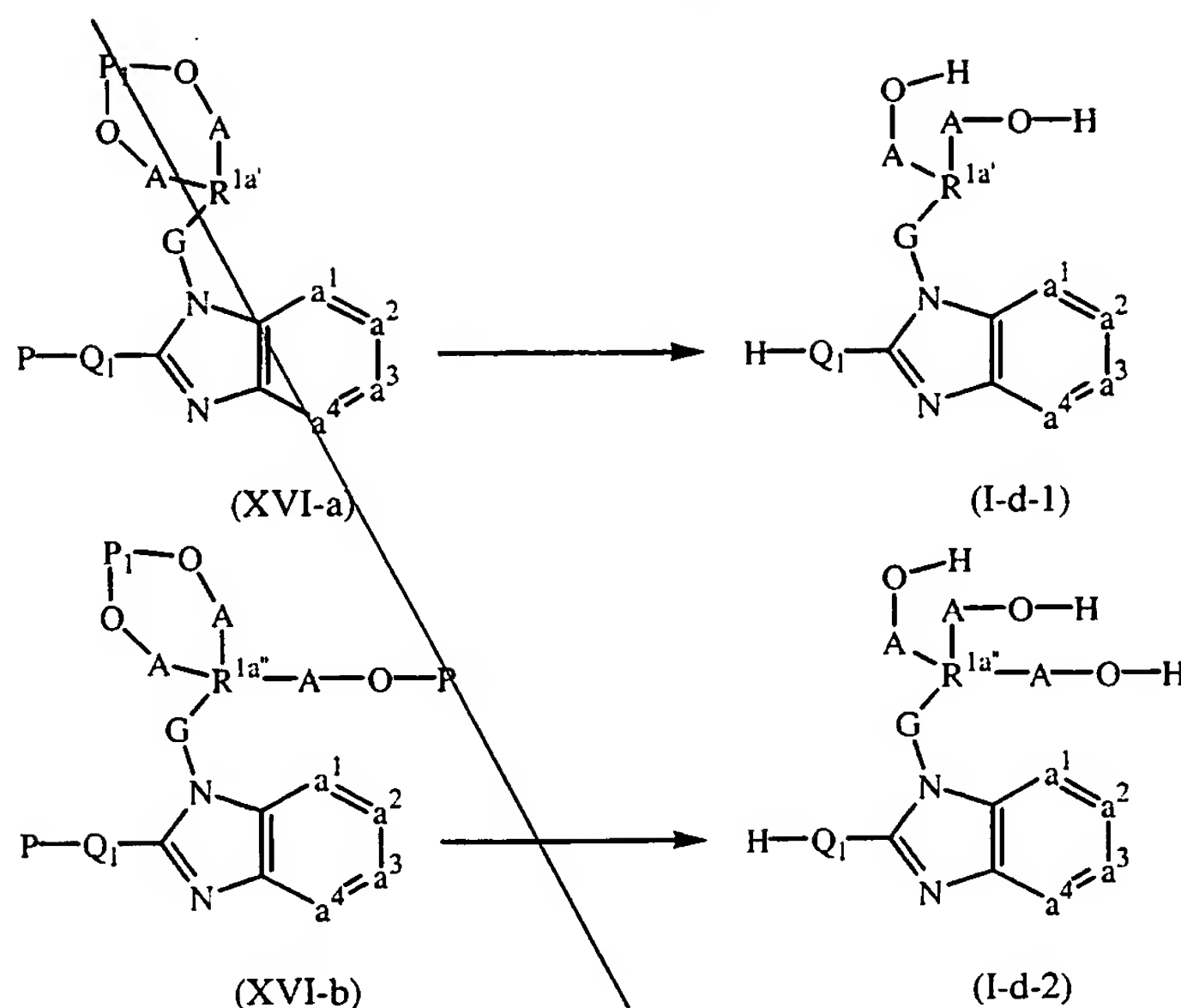


with R¹, G, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and (R⁶)₂N-[(C₁₋₉alkyl)CH₂OH]-NH-HQ₅ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² is other than hydrogen and is represented by C₁₋₁₀alkyl substituted with N(R₆)₂ and with hydroxy, and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy, carries also two hydrogen atoms, and provided that R⁴ is hydrogen, and the carbon atom adjacent to the nitrogen atom carrying the R² and R⁴ substituents, carries also at least one hydrogen atom, with a suitable reducing agent;

- 20 n) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XVI), (XVI-a) or (XVI-b)

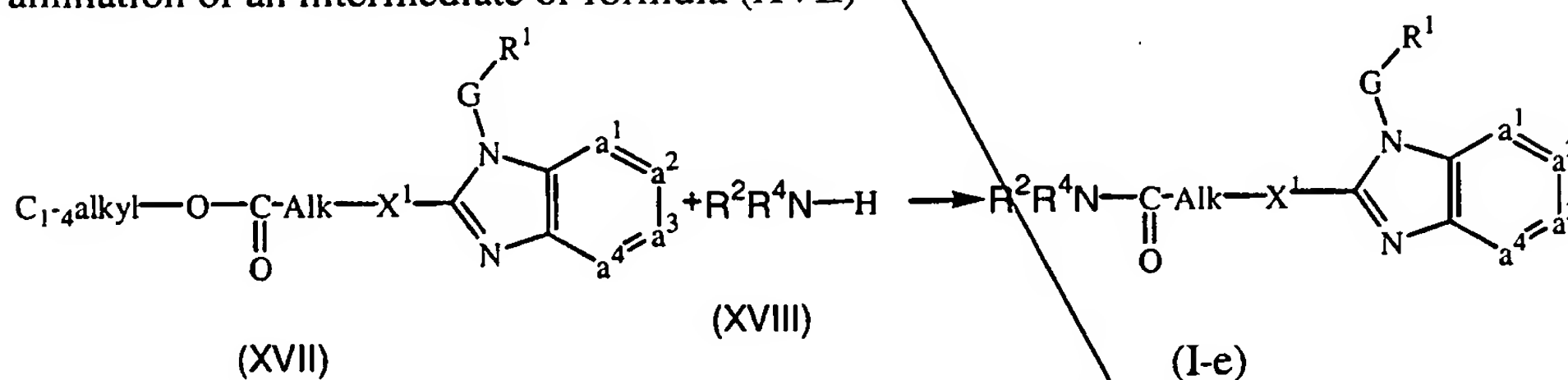


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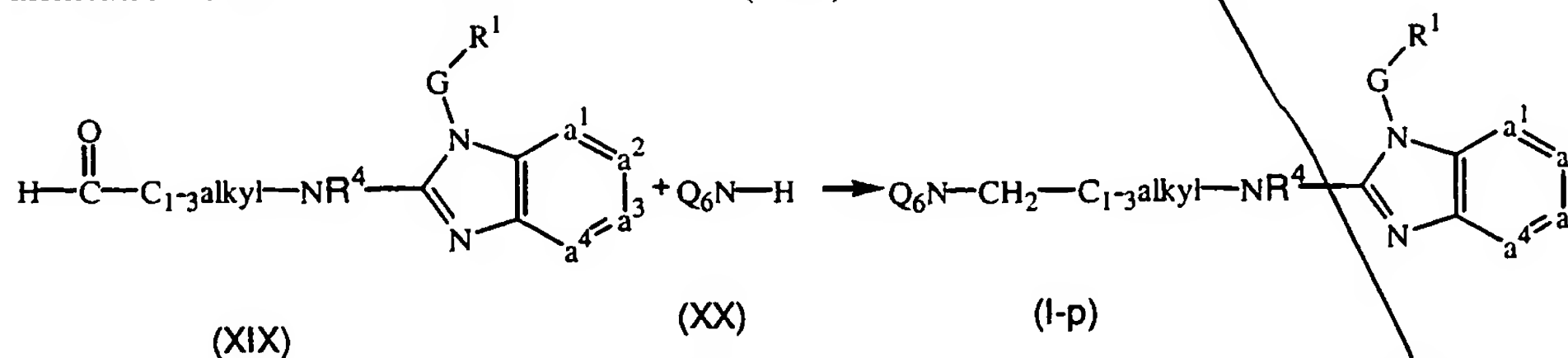
with G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and H-Q₁ being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that R² or at least one R⁶ substituent is hydrogen, and R^{1a}-(A-O-H)_w, R^{1a'}-(A-O-H)₂ and R^{1a''}-(A-O-H)₃ being defined as R¹ according to claim 1 provided that R¹ is substituted with hydroxy, hydroxyC₁₋₆alkyl, or HO(-CH₂-CH₂-O)_n-, with w being an integer from 1 to 4 and P or P₁ being a suitable protecting group, with a suitable acid.

o) amination of an intermediate of formula (XVII)



with R¹, G, $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$, Alk, X¹ R² and R⁴ defined as in claim 1, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

p) amination of an intermediate of formula (XIX)

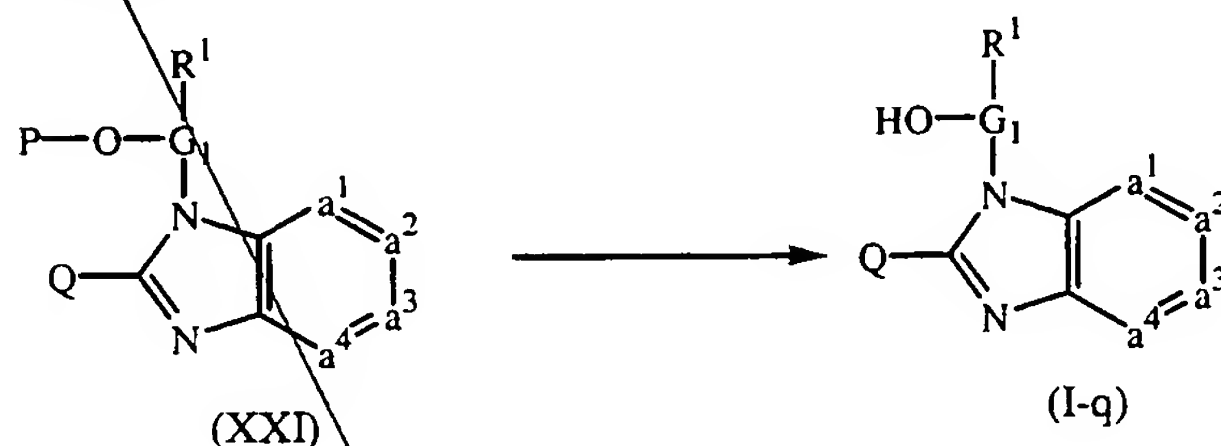


with R¹, G, and $-a^1=a^2-a^3=a^4-$ defined as in claim 1, and Q₆N-CH₂-C₁₋₃alkyl-NR⁴

contd.
a¹

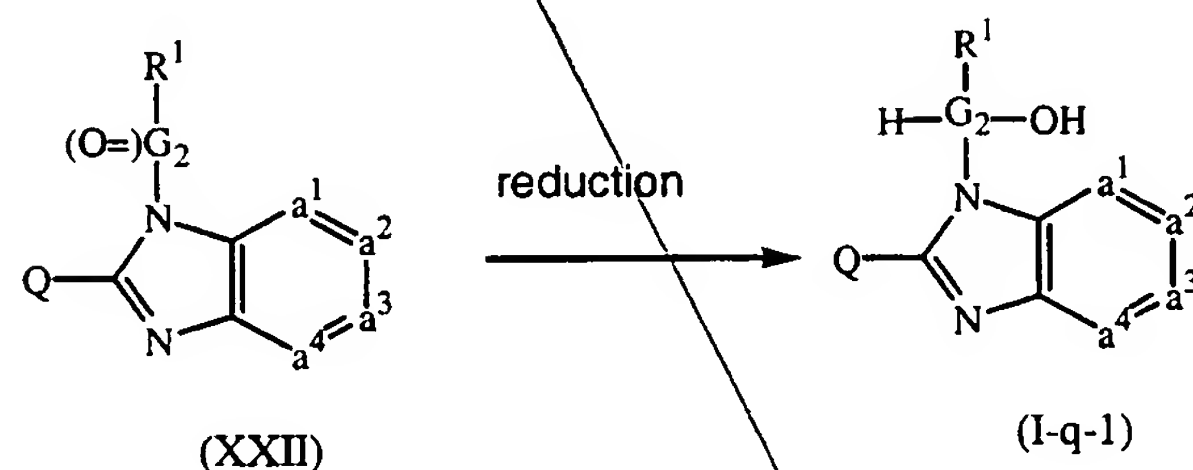
being defined as Q according to claim 1 provided that in the definition of Q, X² is C₂₋₄alkyl-NR⁴, in the presence of a suitable amination agent;

q) deprotecting an intermediate of formula (XXI)



5 with R¹, Q, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and HO-G₁ being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy or HO-(CH₂CH₂O-)_n;

r) reducing an intermediate of formula (XXII)



10 with R¹, Q, and -a¹=a²-a³=a⁴- defined as in claim 1, and H-G₂-OH being defined as G according to claim 1 provided that G is substituted with hydroxy and the carbon atom carrying the hydroxy substituent carries also at least one hydrogen, in the presence of a suitable reducing agent.

15 and, if desired, converting compounds of formula (I) into each other following art-known transformations, and further, if desired, converting the compounds of formula (I), into a therapeutically active non-toxic acid addition salt by treatment with an acid, or into a therapeutically active non-toxic base addition salt by treatment with a base, or conversely, converting the acid addition salt form into the

20 free base by treatment with alkali, or converting the base addition salt into the free acid by treatment with acid; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms, metal complexes, quaternary amines or N-oxide forms thereof.

25 16. A product containing (a) a compound as defined in claim 1, and (b) another antiviral compound, as a combined preparation for simultaneous, separate or sequential use in the treatment or the prevention of viral infections.

contd.
A¹
Add
A²

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as active ingredients (a) a compound as defined in claim 1, and (b) another antiviral compound.

17. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and as active ingredients (a) a compound as defined in claim 1, and (b) another antiviral compound.